



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Judy Chu, Vice Chair**

**4<sup>th</sup> District – Los Angeles**

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## **CHU RELEASES 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2006 TAXABLE SALES**

Judy Chu, Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released figures indicating sales in California went up in the first quarter of 2006, totaling \$128.8 billion. Sales were \$9.4 billion (7.9 percent) higher than the first quarter of 2005.

This represents the fifteenth consecutive quarter with rising sales. Taxable sales increased slightly (0.5 percent) faster than personal income during this period. (*Editor's note: See chart on 2<sup>nd</sup> page.*)

Some highlights:

Total sales in Los Angeles County rose 6.7 percent. The City of Los Angeles saw a similar increase of 6.9 percent. Some top performers in the County include Vernon (18.1 percent increase), Pomona (18.5 percent increase), and Hawthorne (16.18 percent increase).

**Retail Stores:** Sales totaled \$89.6 billion, increasing 7.0 percent over the same quarter of 2005. Retailers of nondurable goods rose 8.5 percent, while durable goods were up 5.6 percent. A small decline in new auto sales, the largest retail sector, held down growth in durable goods (see chart).

**New Car Dealers:** Sales were down 1.2 percent from the prior year, totaling \$14.3 billion and following a national pattern. New vehicle registrations in California increased 1.4 percent during the same period.

**Service Stations:** Sales grew 18.5 percent, faster than any other category, and totaled \$9.5 billion. The gain was caused by a higher average price of gasoline at \$2.344 per gallon, a 16.2 percent jump from the previous year.

**Building Materials:** Dealers reported \$8.5 billion in sales, 11.8 percent more than the previous year. Average prices for building materials as measured by the U.S. implicit price deflator increased 7.5 percent in the first quarter of 2006.

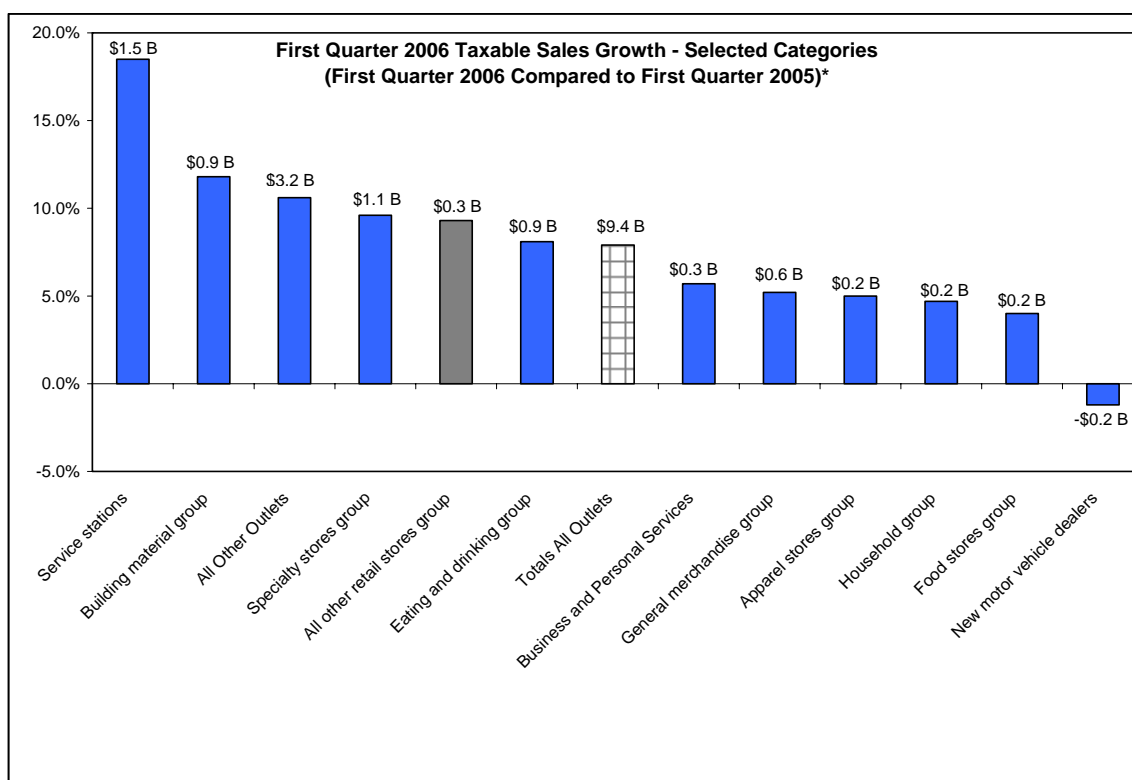
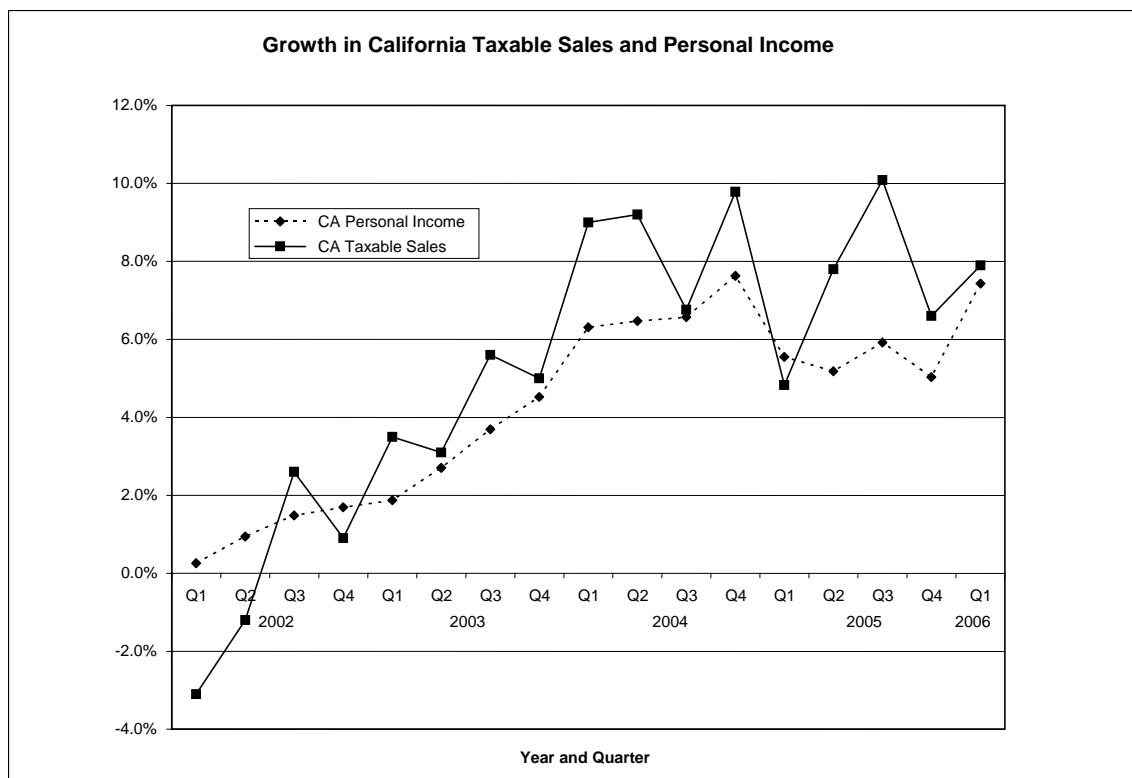
**Construction Contractors:** Reported sales of \$5.6 billion, 17.9 percent higher than the previous year. While residential construction declined during this period, nonresidential construction increased dramatically. Construction permits were up 7 percent statewide during this quarter.

**General Merchandise Stores:** Increased 5.2 percent in the first quarter, posting a total of \$13.1 billion.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

*(See second page for data charts)*





\*This chart highlights specific categories, but is not all inclusive. Please see links above for other figures.

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View 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2006 Taxable Sales by [Type of Business](#), Taxable Sales by [County](#), or Taxable Sales by [City](#).